

WEDNESDAY

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

MAY 4, 2011

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Michael Cherepko with the following Members of Council were present:

**RC-1 PRESENT: DALE McCALL, FAWN WALKER,
ALFRED J. TEDESCO, JR., LORETTA
DIGGS, MICHAEL CHEREPKO, DARRYL
SEGINA, RICHARD DELLAPENNA**

Council President Cherepko would like the moment of silence to remember all of those brave men and women in uniform who have lost their lives so that they can live in freedom and particularly for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice over these last ten years in which they brought one of the worst terrorists in the history of the world to justice over this past week noting that it is truly a proud time to be an American.

Pastor Pete Giacalone from Rainbow Temple of God led the prayer. Pastor Giacalone said he had a quick announcement because tomorrow is a National Day of Prayer and there will be a prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Market Street outdoors. He said if it should rain they will be going indoors.

Also present were Mayor Regis McLaughlin, City Administrator Dennis Pittman and members of the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION: Ms. Diggs moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To
approve the minutes for the Public Hearing of**

RC-2 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7

NAYS: NONE 0

- Received a letter from Mark Depretis, Regional Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Comcast, RE: Important Information – Channel and Package Additions.
- Received a letter from Bernard K. Melekian, Director, COPS Office, RE: Potential Suspension of COPS Grant Management Services.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Dennis Pittman, City Administrator to Midtown Apartments, RE: Letter from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Received a copy of a memorandum sent by Dennis Pittman to Frank Rausch, RE: Rental Lease – 201 Main Street.
- Received a copy of a letter from Dennis Davin, Director of Allegheny County Economic Development, RE: Option to be Included in or Excluded from Allegheny County’s CDBG and Home Programs for Fiscal Years 2012, 2013 & 2014.
- Received a second letter from Dennis Davin of Allegheny County Economic Development, RE: Information Packet for Year 38 (2012) Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Received a letter from Charlene A. Woods, RE: A Proposal: ‘Reinventing home.’”

- Received a letter from Laura Bosnak Thompson, Site Director of the McKeesport Comprehensive Family Center After School Program, thanking the City for their support of their Center.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Dennis Pittman to Jay McKelvey, President of Council, Dravosburg Borough, RE: Invoice Community Policing – FY 2011 Payment.
- Received the 2011 Financial Report for the Palisades Center for the Performing Arts from Mike Joyce.
- Received a copy of a memorandum sent by Dennis Pittman to Mike Cherepko, President of City Council, RE: Proposal – The Palms at O’Neil.
- Received a copy of a memorandum sent by Dennis Pittman to Mayor Regis McLaughlin and City Council, RE: Southeast TCC.
- Received a letter from Larry Shifflet, Director, Center for Program Development and Management, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, RE: 2010 Automated Red Light Enforcement Funding Program Application.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor McLaughlin asked Police Chief Washowich to be first to give his report.

- Police Chief Washowich said good evening. He said the Police Department had 2059 calls for service in April. He said they arrested 190 people and issued 103 traffic citations. He said they orange-tagged 17 vehicles and towed 3 as a result of the orange tags. He said they had two handicap sign applications, issued 437 parking tickets, responded to 8 robberies, 19 burglaries, 18 thefts over \$50, 8 frauds, 13 assaults and 26 criminal mischiefs. He said on April 8 they

had one officer certified in patrol rifle operations. He said on April 21 one of the detectives was certified in advanced fingerprint technology recovery. He said one of their initiatives is that every single weapon recovered on the streets will be fingerprinted in house instead of sending it to the crime lab because the lab has about a 3 – 4 month backlog. He said they did send a detective to advanced fingerprint recovery just for that particular issue. He said on April 28, through the Mayor's office they forwarded a request for the first time offender's parolee program to cut and trim a parklet located in Fawcett Plan. He said in the month of April they also took up a donation for Officer Kuzak's fund and the Police Department was able to raise \$2,800 and it was donated to Officer Kuzak's fund. He said on April 28, they had three officers attend FBI defensive tactics training. He said on April 30, they participated in the Second Annual National Drug Takeback Initiative. He said that was across the United States where the DEA advertised any expired prescription medication could be dropped off at local police departments who were part of the initiative. He said they had a great turnout for that. He said he also gave Council a little correspondence from Children's Hospital concerning the Injury Free Coalition for Kids and Community Education. He said Children's Hospital nurses are volunteering their time and driving through the neighborhoods and donating bicycle helmets to kids. He said that goes from May 1 through September 30. He said that is all he has and asked if there were any questions.

- Ms. Walker said she has a comment, not a question. She said she wants to publicly thank the Chief for working with her as much as he has. He said she and BJ approached the School Board about going to the school and talking to the kids about what to do when they are approached by the police and the School Board was receptive. She said they are going to do that in the History and Social Studies classes. She said she wants to thank him publicly for working with her as much as he

has been and giving his time and those officers' time as well. She said she is going to bring this up when Nick comes up but she will ask him now. She said they have been talking about illegal dumping and she didn't know if there is anything the police department can do to help enforce that. She said maybe Nick can answer that when he gets up here but she wondered if there is anything from him that they can do about the illegal dumping.

- Chief Washowich said they actually had an incident Easter Weekend when they came to work and Nick noticed illegal dumping at the City garage. He said they were able to investigate it and were able to pull some indicia from the garbage and determine that it was a business from the City of Pittsburgh who had paid someone to clean out their business. He said they interviewed the business owner and the person who had cleaned out the business and subsequently charged that particular person. He said Nick is compiling a bill for them and it will be several tons and charges were filed. He said they are actively pursuing illegal dumping and if they have any areas they would like them to look at, he would be more than happy to do that.
- Ms. Walker said she does and will tell him.
- Chief Washowich said that she should email him about it.
- Ms. Walker said okay.
- Mr. Tedesco said they are still looking at getting cameras down there aren't they.
- Chief Washowich said absolutely. He said he got some research on camera systems and he thinks they can do it easily for under \$300.
- Mr. McCall said are there any open full time positions that are not filled.

- Chief Washowich said they are down five full time officers and the majority of them are administration so he is not lacking anything in the patrol division and his schedule is being filled. He said he is trying to maintain six to nine officers per shift. He said they are down five full time officers.
- Mr. McCall said so they are down five full ones.
- Chief Washowich said he wanted to let him know that he did talk to the School District concerning moving the trailer and they approved putting it on the lot up in Grandview and they are just waiting for some drier weather so they can put it up there and pull it out of the swamp it is in now.
- Ms. Walker said is the Chief looking at hiring any part-time officers.
- Chief Washowich said they have not discussed anything concerning hiring.
- Mr. McCall said he has another question for the Chief ... there is a lot of stuff going around especially since it is election time and stuff like that He said Chief Washowich has been with the police department for a long while and wondered if there has ever been any ... and is there now ... equipment that he needs that he has asked for and cannot have. He said is there anything of that nature.
- Chief Washowich said the Mayor's Office, Mr. Pittman and he have been working on a group radio deal which is kind of a long story. He said in 2013 the FCC is requiring all of them to move from a 100 band frequency up to a 400 band frequency so they are kind of getting a jump on it and through Mr. Pittman's office, he was able to grab a couple of other municipalities so they are trying to work a bulk deal for radios. He said he believes

they are going to be able to do that at very little cost to the taxpayers. He said he also has a request in for two flare cameras which are the infrared cameras and obviously is something to let them see at night especially if there is a child or elderly person wanders off and they have to search for them. He said he has a request in for that also. He said that is through a grant. He said they also have the Omega software that they are very close to solving that particular initiative. He said that is going to be the geographical mapping analysis to where they can all look at a map and see where a lot of the crimes are occurring and then can divert saturation patrols. He said it actually predicts crime. He said they are looking forward to that.

- Mayor McLaughlin said once the new radio is in place, will that put them in touch with the Fire Department and all of them in one group.
- Chief Washowich said the new radios will be on UHF. He said the Fire Department is on UHF and he believes there will be a way to connect all the channels together through an inter-channel band.
- Mayor McLaughlin said they don't do that now, correct.
- Chief Washowich said no sir, they don't. He said does anyone have anything else.
- Fire Chief Kevin Lust said good evening. He said to answer that question on the ultra hi-band, they will be able to contact the police actually through the 9-1-1 band. He said after 9-1-1, they did a survey and everyone wanted to go to the 400 band so they can talk in basements of places and be aware that everyone has a radio. He said as of now, everyone on his force has a radio too and that was through a grant from the County. He said in April they had 83 calls which included 4 cooking fires, 2 building fires, and 7 landing zones. He said he wants to comment on this because they are talking about

the rubbish. He said their rubbish fires are going up. He said he just wanted to make a comment and when Mr. McCall asked the police chief ... the City does have an ordinance that there is no burning in Allegheny County. He said that is an Allegheny County ordinance so they abide by that in the City of McKeesport. He said people are allowed a little recreational fire as they call it but they better have the hot dogs out and the marshmallows. He said when they go to the fire and it is six foot high and someone has a hot dog, they are going to get arrested for that. He said they have already been telling people that ... some are burning their roofing material and everything else which has toxic smoke. He said they don't even use their head. He said the leaves blow and then they have three city blocks with embers flying. He said with so many empty homes in the City, no one would even notice a fire until it was too late. He said just to let everyone know, there is no burning in the City of McKeesport. He said another thing he wanted to bring up, they are in full SOP's for the River Rescue Team. He said the boat is in the water and they have been on two or three calls already with it. He said they still have to complete courses. He said each member of his department and the police department, those who took diving classes, are recognized in Allegheny County now. He said with the City able to get a river rescue boat, they really stepped in Allegheny County. He said now Deputy Fire Chief Chuck Margliotti is now second in command in River Rescue on the locks and dams. He said they will be doing some training on that this month. He said last month they had the Hazmat refresher class which goes along with the River Rescue. He said they have to have that ... people think they can just go on a boat and go rescue someone but if they are not qualified, they are not allowed on a boat. He said he has had that already and Mr. Pittman and he and the Union already talked about it. He said they have to get everyone trained but they got caught ... he didn't want the boat on the water without people being trained. He said with the boat in the water, he had to call in the guys with training. He said that is all he has to report.

- Public Works Director Nick Shermenti said good evening. He said he has a couple of things to report. He said the Parks Department is trying to maintain the ball fields but when it rains 27 days out of 30, it is pretty tough. He said he knows there have been a lot of games cancelled in April so they are trying to cut the grass and get the fields dried out on a day to day basis. He said the Traffic Department has completed the Cox's Lot with the line painting and parking meters. He said that lot is now open and he believes there is some permit parking there also. He said that finished up their job there. He said the Street Department is hot patching and trash picking the lots. He said they are not doing too much hot patching because of the rain. He said they did get the asphalt bid from the TRCOG and it did not come in very well, the asphalt went up \$8.00 a ton to \$55.50 per ton of asphalt. He said it is also \$70.00 an hour to have it delivered and they want the City to pay an hour to and from the City for the trucks. He said that is 10 hours a day if they are working an eight hour day, \$700 a day just for the shipping.
- Mayor McLaughlin said did the hourly wage go up.
- Mr. Shermenti said the hourly wage went up about \$3.00. He said if they want to look at that money without the transportation, with the amount of asphalt that they paved last year and the year before, it is an average of about \$64,000 extra. He said they will have to look at the paving list to see what they are actually going to be able to pave this year. He said BJ mentioned about the garbage and the illegal dumpers. He said there were actually three of them. He said they left Thursday with two boxes empty at the City Garage and they arrived there Monday and both boxes were full. He said they did catch the one person. He said the one was five tons which is about 10,680 pounds and the others were around seven tons a piece. He said that is all he has to report.

- Mr. McCall said he has a question for Nick and he doesn't know if Nick is going to like it or not but he is just going to throw it out to him. He said there was a statement made to him that in the previous years that he was taking checks to the vendors. He said is that true?
- Mr. Shermenti said yes it is.
- Mr. McCall said is there a reason why he would take them instead of the City mailing them.
- Mr. Shermenti said he was ordered by his boss at that time which was James Brewster, the Mayor. He said he has also been told by Dennis Pittman at different times and has taken checks to R & W Oil so they did not pay a penalty. He said he has taken checks to the 12th Congressional when they were doing Marshall Drive, to Ray's Tree Service, Nickolich Sanitation and they were all taken for different reasons. He said there was no secret. He said he has taken them from after the Council Meeting here. He said Ms. Williams knows that he has taken them, the Mayor has known and Dennis Pittman has known. He said one time he actually went and asked Mr. Malinchak for the check and Mr. Malinchak told him no and he and the Mayor actually got into a little bit of a discussion about it. He said the check was given to him and he delivered it that day also.
- Mr. McCall said it was never that he did anything underneath the table.
- Mr. Shermenti said oh no, it was a check.
- Mr. McCall said he was asked to deliver the check.
- Mr. Shermenti said he was asked to deliver it and he delivered it. He said he has done it for most of the vendors that they have. He said sometimes it was late and sometimes it was not.

- Mr. McCall said thank you.
- Ms. Walker said she has a question to ask him. She said she was watching the news and there was one community where they did like a clean-up day for illegal dumping. She said does he think that would benefit them here or is the dumping just excessive.
- Mr. Shermenti said his cleanup day for illegal dumping is every day. He said if they look up at Hazel Street and Colfax, he has had boxes up there the last few weeks and had his trucks up there and it is all cleaned up. He said he is actually going to put jersey barriers up there so that people can't get there. He said there aren't houses there anymore so he is going to close the road off.
- Ms. Walker said her question is if someone were to organize something like that for a block and the citizens help, would it be something he would like.
- Mr. Shermenti said he needs all the help he can get with that. He said yes, absolutely. He said his employees can't help if it is a weekend because that would be overtime.
- Ms. Walker said right, okay.
- Community Development Director Bethany Bauer said to build on what Ms. Walker was talking about, they did that a few times years ago. She said just as a suggestion because of the weekend and the overtime and the Public Works Department, if it is organized on a Saturday or Sunday and bags could be put out at certain corners then on Monday and Tuesday, Public Works will pick up the bags.
- Mr. Shermenti said he will also supply them with bags.
- Ms. Bauer said currently the State has announced the Emergency Shelter Grant application process for 2011.

She said it is due June 1. She said currently they have the YMCA and First Step to Recovery applying. She said they talked to her last evening at a brief Public Hearing she had as to what they will be applying for. She said initially the Intersection was also going to join them in that application but she has since reconsidered and is looking at doing some services at the YMCA because they have so much space available. She said there was an article, actually she sees it on Councilman Segina's desk, in the US Mayor's Report newspaper. She said because she is sure that everyone is waiting to hear about the cuts and what those actual dollars are. She said unfortunately they still have not given them the dollar figure. She said just to highlight what was in the article, in the second column it says "to help put it in the current perspective, the CDBG a low of \$2.8 billion during the 1988 Reagan Administration and the program is now being funded at \$3.343 billion." She said they have taken quite a step backwards. She said in the third column it talks about the House Republican Study Committee recommended the total elimination of the CDBG program followed by a 62.5% cut. She said currently it is a 16.2% cut but the article continues on the next page, second column ... "to further confuse matters, the bill contains a .2% across the board cut to non-defense domestic discretionary programs which will be calculated by Office of Management Budget and the Federal Agencies." She said it goes on to say there are also more communities that are now eligible for a piece of the pie. She said it also talks about in particular what the Police Chief ... on page 2, COPS and Justice grants were cut by 17%. She said a lot of those programs are what they have collectively used to assist the police department and the Police Chief in their various needs. She said that cut may or may not affect McKeesport because it is all based on their UCR's but she does want to bring that to their attention. She said they are still waiting to see what their number is going to be.

- Mayor McLaughlin said if they add more communities to this program, it will really probably cut the funds to McKeesport.
- Ms. Bauer said yes.
- Mr. Malinchak said the Justice grants is that the D.A.R.E. Program or is that somewhere else.
- Ms. Bauer said that is a different program. She said the D.A.R.E. Program may also be federally funded, she is not familiar with the funding of that but the JAG and the SPURN are both federally funded and sometimes the state gets a piece of that pie and sometimes they get a piece of the state's pie or the direct federal pie.
- Mr. Malinchak said there are a lot of sources of funding for D.A.R.E. aren't there, and the DOJ is one of them.
- Ms. Bauer said yes, for all the programs whether FEMA for the Fire Department or a Recreation Grant, the sources in the past ... it has actually made the accounting part of it more complicated. She said before they put it in an interest bearing account and returned the interest. She said now depending on what the source is, one is and one isn't and sometimes you can reuse the interest ... they are all over the place and there is no telling what is going to come out which way.
- Mayor McLaughlin said approximately two months ago they started talking about fireworks and were worried about money so he got together with Ms. Annette James and they put out about \$2,500 request for donations to different organizations in McKeesport and told them they would be recognized for what they donated. She said so far they received four replies from a total of \$2,250.00. He said that is a plus for the people in the City and the fireworks can get better because there is more money for them now.
- Mr. Malinchak said what four replied.

- Mayor McLaughlin said it was Hoots Again, the Elbow Room, the Polish Club and McKeesport Lions Club. He said also Council received a memorandum that was sent to them. He said he is going to read it because there is a good bit here and so the audience can hear it. He said with the cutbacks in the CDBG, he and Dennis and a few people were talking about trying to get the money into the City and bringing them back to where they are supposed to be. He read the Memorandum:

The City Administration has been working closely with our bond underwriter, John McShane, to explore the possibilities for cost savings through refinancing the City's debt. Our collective analysis indicates that, although the City is eligible to refinance, market conditions and rate do not warrant that action at this time. [He said that is for the City to renew their bonds.]

The City did, however, discuss that – if we could retire existing debt, and the balance sheet would thereby be enhanced – could the bond rating services be postured to improve our current rating. This designation would save the City a \$168,000.00 insurance premium per year.

I have discussed, with Joe Rost, Executive Director, of the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport (MACM), [Mr. Shermenti who is the Chairman of the MACM], and the MACM Engineer, Steve Greenberg, the potential for incorporating the savings realized from the low bid award and Pennvest announcement [He said he guessed everyone read about the PennVest Announcements with \$36 million being awarded to the MACM, which is the highest ever to be awarded to anyone.] was to whether some of the

receivables due the City could be prepaid. This action would:

- *Positively change the annual cash flow for the City operations.*
- *Present a debt income ratio which would result in an increased bond rating.*
- *Creating an opportunity to restore our fund balance from \$420,000 to \$1 million.*
- *Establish a call feature which is available in our bonds in 2015-2016, whereby, our outstanding balance could be reduced by \$20 million.*
- *Enable the City to refinance the remaining debt in the year 2015-2016 if that is financially prudent.*

I will ask John McShane and Mr. Pittman to present this scenario to you with detail at the June Council work session and adoption could be available commencing July 1st.

- He said this is something that could get them out of trouble for maybe the next five years.
- Mr. Segina said he would like to suggest to the Mayor that when they do this, they establish some kind of a capital project fund so that they can utilize that for some equipment that is sorely needed for the different departments of the City. He said the amount could be negotiable but he thinks that having a capital project fund would give them a little bit of slack in trying to get some of this equipment through their General Fund because the money just isn't there. He said with this

refinancing, it would tend to give them an opportunity to buy some equipment.

- Mr. McCall said that is what they did before when they did this.
- Mr. Segina said no, the \$5 million was set aside for demolition and paving.
- Mr. McCall said but that is capital improvement.
- Mr. Segina said that is true, however this would be for equipment only.
- Mr. McCall said he would not do that, but he would say they should put it in for capital improvements all together.
- Mr. Segina said it is something ... they can name it anything they want.
- Mr. Cherepko said they can look at it when it happens.
- Mayor McLaughlin said it is something they can negotiate.
- Mr. Segina said he is just saying they should have some kind of capital project fund.
- Mayor McLaughlin said that is something they should all think about and see where it's at.
- Mr. Segina said where are your priorities.
- Mr. McCall said I am not
- Mr. Segina said yes you are.
- Mr. Malinchak said would you be able to give a few examples of some of the receivables that are due to the City.

- Mr. Pittman said they have three
- Mr. McCall said he would like to interrupt and inject here He said this is just a discussion right now Ray. He said this is all addition to the discussion, let them work it out first and then Ray can come back with his question. He said he thinks that would be more feasible.
- Mr. Malinchak said he would like to proceed with his question and he thinks it is legitimate. He said would Mr. Pittman please answer the question.
- Mr. Pittman said they have three cash flows that are currently in place with the Municipal Authority and those appear on the balance sheet at the Municipal Authority as payables so they are on the debt side. He said one of those is the continuing financing of a 1997 Bond Issue done when Mayor Bendel was here and the rate to the City was less than it would have been to the Sanitary Authority and therefore they are reimbursing the City by making that payment. He said that would be prepaid in full so that debt would be off the books of the Sanitary Authority and off the books of the City. He said the second is a combination of two PennVest Loans and one of those was done during Hurricane Ivan and the other was done for an Act 537 effort along Walnut Street. He said both of those have such an advantageous interest rate, like the one that was just awarded to the Authority at 1%, that they would remain in place. He said the third is the sale on a term instrument of the Sanitary lines within the City. He said they currently receive \$163,000 per month. He said that would go away and in turn they would receive a lump sum which would be escrowed for the payment of the bond and add a call feature so that their outstanding balance would be reduced. He said those would be in an equivalent of a lock box. He said they

can't pay them early without paying a penalty to the bond holders. He said however it would change the City's balance sheet which is available at the Standard and Poor's and Moody's and therefore increase the City's bond rating. He said that would in turn reduce the \$168,000 premium.

- Mr. Malinchak said when the \$163,000 goes away it is approximately \$1.9 million a year revenue that they will not have.
- Mr. Pittman said that is correct.
- Mr. Segina said is that like applying a dividend back into the debt, like they do on insurance.
- Mr. Pittman said it would be if they could pay them early and they will pay them early in 2015 but they can't do that now without paying a penalty because the bond holders are getting a higher rate than they can reinvest.
- Mr. Malinchak said thank you.
- Ms. Walker said she has some questions. She said in their packets there was something about Propel students wanting land on Soles Street for a community garden. She said is that something they are going
- Mayor McLaughlin said there is a piece of property on Soles Street where a house was torn down and the property is just sitting there. He said Propel would like to plant a garden there but the property is still owned by an individual so they can't give them the okay to do that. He said if they go on the property, then who is liable for it. He said they can't do that.
- Ms. Walker said there was something also in there about the safety of the windows at Midtown Plaza. She said it was a letter that they got from CYF.

- Mayor McLaughlin said he did not see that one regarding windows. He said did they get something on windows, Patty?
- Ms. Walker said about the windows at Midtown Plaza. She said Dennis might know about it.
- Ms. Williams said it was in the communications.
- Ms. Walker said it was from CYF about the kids hanging out the windows.
- Mr. Pittman said they got a letter from Ms. Nancy Aquino who is a Director and she and a Security Guard as it turned out witnessed an approximately 4 year old child sitting in about the sixth or seventh floor on the window sill leaning backwards because it was hot and the window was open. He said they were able to go over to the unit and get the child placed back inside the unit. He said they sent a letter to HUD and copied the City as they may be aware, it is a subsidized structure but not owned by the Federal government, there is a syndicate out of Washington state. He said they in turn got a copy of Ms. Aquino's letter, contacted the building manager and Chris House, the Building Inspector, was to receive from the building manager, desired improvements that would restrict the window openings or put air conditioners in or maybe safety guards or one of several things that can be done so that there would potentially never be a tragedy occurring in the warm weather without air conditioning.
- Ms. Walker said thank you. She said the Lions Club, did they take over the Summer Concert series or are they still doing that with them or how is that arranged.
- Mayor McLaughlin said Jim Brown is not here but he thinks ... he said is Mr. Dan Carr here. He said could

Mr. Carr explain that please. He said are they running the whole concert series.

- Mr. Carr said it is a joint venture with the City. He said the City has the responsibility for "x" amount of dollars and then they have assumed responsibility for the rest of the money.
- Ms. Walker said are the profits being split.
- Mr. Carr said last year at the end of the year, they donated money back. He said they split the only money that the Lions Club received from the 50/50 and split it and returned back about \$2800.00 that they gave back last year. He said they actually expect to receive that this year. He said they got over \$5,000 in 50/50's and split it with the City so it was a win/win for everyone.
- Ms. Walker said thank you. She said she had two other things. She said there was something in the packet about owing money to Design Monuments for the McKeesport Renzie Park pillars and then the Bendel Memorial at the Marina.
- Mayor McLaughlin said does Mr. Pittman want to answer that.
- Ms. Walker said is that something they are going to pay or
- Mr. Pittman said there is a memo and he guessed Council received today, and he just received it from the Senator and he doesn't know if they all have this.
- Ms. Walker said he is talking about Lake Emily and she is talking about the other one from Design Monuments.
- Mr. Pittman said all three are in the discovery stages.
- Ms. Walker said okay.

- Mr. Pittman said maybe that addresses her question. He said did everyone have a chance to read that and then he could
- Ms. Walker said she had a chance to read it but do they have a solution yet. She said that is her question.
- Mr. Pittman said he has copies of three invoices from a vendor and none of those invoices are dated and none of them are signed by the vendor or anybody in the City. He said they were presented to him in December. He said there was no line item in the budget to pay for them and no authorization on the paperwork that was delivered either by the vendor or by the City. He said they look like the equivalent of quotes except there is no question that the work has been done. He said he doesn't question the amount of money that has been presented for value for the work that was done. He said he talked to the vendor and the vendor indicated to him that this was done some time ago and that he must have missed a whole series of meetings and authorizations. He said apparently that may be the case. He said he still doesn't have anything from the vendor other than a phone call from their attorney telling him he will pay the bill. He said once he has the paperwork that he thinks would pass an audit, then he would present that paperwork to the Controller and Council. He said as they sit here today, he has a memorandum that seems to indicate a series of events that would warrant the payment, but he still has nothing from the vendor, nothing signed other than three pieces of paper for some work that apparently has now been completed on City property. He said that is what he has right now.
- Ms. Walker said so he is waiting for the correct documentation.

- Mr. Pittman said he has a memorandum explaining what apparently took place but he does not have the documentation he would expect for any vendor this City deals with, including anyone he has dealt with over the last 7-1/2 years, no he does not have that documentation.
- Ms. Walker said is there anybody on Council that was here when that was done.
- Mayor McLaughlin said they were all here.
- Ms. Walker said she is confused.
- Mayor McLaughlin said they are waiting for Design Monuments to send them an invoice.
- Mr. Segina said they have an invoice.
- Mr. Pittman said he has a paper with a number on it but it is not dated or signed or nothing. He said it is a piece of paper with a number on it. He said if he came to her house and cuts her grass, then a year later he sends a bill saying he came out on July 1 and cut her grass and wants \$50. He said if he was her, he would have a problem paying the bill. He said if he didn't authorize it and doesn't have anything dated, nothing. He said that is where he is right now. He said he is not questioning the work that is out there, he has photographs that it is done and they can go see the work today. He said it is still undated and still unsigned. He said he has had two conversations that were less than amicable with the vendor.
- Ms. Walker said she is asking because they approved it and they are sending Council memos saying they owe them money. She said she just wanted to ask him about it.
- Mr. Pittman said they have not approved anything.

- Ms. Walker said they approved for them to do the work.
- Mr. Pittman said that would have been nice. He said he has not seen a purchase order signed by anyone.
- Mr. Tedesco said so he is saying they just did the work....
- Ms. Walker said they just did the work there.
- Mr. Pittman said there is a contention that the work was authorized and he has not seen any paperwork from any member of this Administration in the last 7 years signed that authorized it, nothing. He said if they want him to pay it, he will pay it.
- Mr. Malinchak said he assumed that all the paperwork ... and by the way, he and Mr. Pittman had a little bit of discussion about this and he has a little background. He said he concurs with Mr. Pittman's position. He said assuming everything was in order right now, wouldn't it be incumbent upon Council then to find money somewhere to fund a line item so they could pay this bill.
- Mr. Pittman said that is another matter
- Mr. Malinchak said assuming that everything in front of him was acceptable.
- Mr. Pittman said yes that is correct.
- Mr. Malinchak said step two is that they have to find the money to fund the line item and that would be \$8,000 to \$10,000.
- Mr. Pittman said it is about \$12,000.

- Mr. Malinchak said just so they understand it, even though Mr. Pittman says everything is okay, the next logical question is where is the money coming from.
- Ms. Walker said she understands that but did not
- Mr. Segina said why did they erect it and there are a lot blanks here.
- Ms. Walker said that is why she is asking the question ... she doesn't understand it. She said she understands they have to find the money but she is questioning why it has not been paid and Dennis is explaining but she did not say that she didn't know they had to find the money.
- Mr. Segina said the other question is why was the work done without authorization.
- Ms. Walker said exactly and that is what she is asking. She said no one else will say anything but that is why she is asking. She said she was not here but she would like to know.
- Mr. Segina said she was here. He said wasn't Nick overseeing most of these projects.
- Ms. Walker said how could they do stuff and not approve it. She said she doesn't understand.
- Mr. Shermenti said he knew they were going to get to this. He said he had nothing to do with the Bendel Monument. He said nothing whatsoever. He said he can't remember the times but he can give them approximate dates. He said around the time that they did Frank Miller's monument and took it off of 5th Avenue and put it over here. He said during many staff meetings, Mayor Brewster asked him to get monuments ... there were actually three of them. He said one was a wooden one that is by the Sulfur

Springs and it says that it is Sulfur Springs Youth Center and Mayor James Brewster on it. He said it used to be where Heatherington was but now it says that. He said he was asked to order two monuments, the same as what was on Fifth Avenue for Officer Miller and put one at Lake Emily and that was after they dredged it and rebuilt the spillway and filled it up. He said he was also asked to get one for the Goldfish Pond. The monuments said they were refurbished and Mr. Brewster told him what to put on it. He said there is no dedication on it; it just says Mayor James Brewster at the bottom. He said they discussed this many times in front of all the staff at the staff meetings. He said the Mayor was upset with him because he did not get them done in a timely fashion but he had problems with the vendor. He said he ordered them and he believes it was sometime in March or April of 2008 or 2009. He said he cannot really remember. He said they brought them back

- Mr. Segina said is Nick saying these were done in 2008 or 2009.
- Ms. Walker said she was not here.
- Mr. Shermenti said yes, they brought them in and asked them to look at them. He said they looked at them and Lake Emily was misspelled, it didn't say Mayor James Brewster on it, it just said Mayor JB and they were sent back. He said about seven or eight more months went by and he is asked about them and he said he would check into it and he found out that the gentleman that ordered them quit. He said so they were in limbo. He said a while later he got a call from Design Monuments saying they were in and that the Bendel Monument was in. He said he went up and said he didn't know anything about the Bendel Monument and it was too big for him to handle and he could not

take care of it. He said they installed that themselves down there and he never saw a bill on it or paperwork on anything. He said they went back and looked at them and it was either in October or November and maybe some of them can help him, but there was a luncheon at the Country Club honoring now Senator Brewster. He said he thinks it was McKeesport Hospital and there were a lot of people from McKeesport Hospital. He said he was there and got a telephone call from his foreman that they were already mounted, and in and for them to take a look at them. He said he thinks the Chief and he that day ... both Chiefs and he went down and looked at them and he notified then Mayor Brewster that they were done. He said he never received a bill on them, never put a purchase order on them and never saw any of the paperwork but he is the one who ordered them and they were a while ago.

- Mr. Segina said what was the purpose of the monuments, he doesn't understand.
- Mr. Shermenti said it was exactly what it says, that the original date was on them ... for instance the Goldfish Pond has a date on it when it was erected and then it says refurbished 2008 or whatever date they refurbished it and then it just says Mayor James Brewster on it.
- Mr. Segina said he remembers normally that when they had a HUD project or a state-funded project, they would put a wooden sign up and it was with two angles and would describe who donated the funds or granted the funds for that particular project. He said then on the bottom it would say funded by whoever such as Housing and Urban Development then of course the Mayor's name would be on the bottom and it would last for about three years. He said they would then take a picture and send it into whoever funded them to show

that they were giving them credit for it. He said he doesn't understand

- Mr. Shermenti said that was done with the wooden one at Sulfur Springs Field Youth Center.
- Mr. Segina said he has never seen a permanent monument for this. He said he doesn't know why this happened.
- Mr. Shermenti said and it had the RAD insignia on it, the wooden sign for Sulfur Springs. He said it had the RAD insignia on it and they had to make sure that was on there and presented it to RAD.
- Mr. Pittman said maybe Bethany could attest to the wooden sign.
- Ms. Bauer said to Councilman Segina's comment, the wooden signs were always a tag line requirement of the contract of the project and they always had to list whoever depending on whether it was the State, the Governor at that time and he is absolutely right, they took a picture and sent it in and they lasted about three years. She said they did it for the 10th Ward Boat Launch and did that several years ago. She said that was always a requirement of the State. She said they always asked them what they wanted it to look like and they said the City should decide. She said they went the cost effective route so that wooden signs were used. She said Elm Street has one.
- Mr. Segina said they are supposed to be temporary anyway. He said was a picture taken of the monument and sent to the different grant funders.
- Ms. Bauer said on this recent project? She said not that she is aware of.

- Mr. Shermenti said only the wooden one not the other ones.
- Mr. Malinchak said Mr. Pittman said he spoke to the vendor's attorney.
- Mr. Pittman said yes sir.
- Mr. Malinchak said did it seem like there is any threat of legal action.
- Mr. Pittman said they indicated that the work was satisfactory and they were going to be paid.
- Mr. Malinchak said so basically it looks like they have an internal mess here and are punishing a vendor out there who delivered a product. He said is that true.
- Mr. Pittman said he guesses they are all entitled to opinions and if he were a vendor, he doesn't think he would do any work without a signed agreement. He said he doesn't think he would do any work in this City if he had done work with the City without a purchase order or some other authorization and he would be shocked to think anyone would trust him to go out and do work with a blank check.
- Mr. Segina said maybe there should be a surcharge. He said he knows he was mentioned when he wanted to have the investigative firm hired and they said they were going to surcharge him if he did that. He said maybe this should face a surcharge too. He said what is the difference in one over the other.
- Ms. Walker said thank you Nick for his information and the dates because this is something she does not remember because in 2008 and 2009 she was not present. She said she guesses that they will have to keep discussing especially when it comes to their desk for payment. She said they are going to definitely keep

discussing it. She said thank you Dennis for your response and for talking to the attorney and following up on it.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Mr. Tedesco said first of all, in today's Post-Gazette, he saw that the Neighborhood Blight Act had become law last week. He said did they have any coordinated efforts to use this tool to enforce any of their Code Enforcement out there.
 - Ms. Bauer said she did not see the article.
 - Mr. Tedesco said it involves being able to extradite delinquent owners who are not up keeping their property. He said they have a lot of property where owners out of state have come and bought the property and let these buildings deteriorate.
 - Mr. Segina said that was passed through the Senate in the early part of January.
 - Mr. Tedesco said it just became law last week.
 - Mr. Segina said it became law last week and they had a big article in the Post-Gazette about it but it gives the City more teeth now to go out and get the absentee landlords and get these houses before they run down the condemnation proceedings and the possibility to rehabilitate them and attaching the absentee landlord or even if they live in the City, their personal property rather than going after them with liens. He said in all fairness, he doesn't think they have had a chance to implement that yet since it just came into law.
 - Ms. Bauer said she has not however, one of her Code Enforcement Officers is in the audience, but they actively pursue ordinance violation offenders. She said

to say that the process is onerous is an understatement, and doesn't even exist or fit the problem. She said if the people or owners are out of state there is really not much legally that they are able to do. She said this new law that he speaks of may allow them to do more. She said they also work with the Police Department as far as issuing warrants and picking people up. She said sometimes the person lives not necessarily out of state but on the other side of the state. She said then they get into all kinds of time and effort and it is not feasible to do. She said however she hopes this new law will allow them to do more because she knows that their efforts have been exhaustive between the departments and with illegal dumping she knows there is a situation where the Code Enforcement Officers have gone through the garbage bags and stumbled upon an address so they are successful in getting some of those people as well and finding them. She said they have tried to make great strides but unfortunately they are hampered by a myriad of things.

- Mr. Tedesco said his only comment is that they can use this now as a tool.
- Ms. Bauer said she will definitely look that up, it was today's Post-Gazette. She said she will absolutely look it up.
- Mr. Segina said they can also knock down homes and go after the personal property of the person that owned that property.
- Mr. Tedesco said they can actually lien the home where they reside.
- Mr. Segina said it is monumental as far as what it gives the City in teeth now to go after these guys that just

walk away from a house after they have bled it for the rent.

- Ms. Bauer said also she would like to add that a lot of these houses are being flipped two and three times and being flipped to non-profits, LLC's and whether they are registered or not registered and whether they can find out who the owner is in a lot of the cases is a problem.
- Mr. Segina said there are some more laws that need to be made regarding real estate. He said this is only the beginning.
- Mr. Malinchak said there is another mechanism here that they fail to use and he thinks that probably seven, eight or nine months ago, Mr. Segina brought it up and if they look at the agreement with the delinquent tax collector, he can attach the rents of rental property for property owners that are delinquent. He said he thinks there was a list of 29 that he never saw that he was promised by the former solicitor. He said that particular clause in that agreement with the delinquent tax collector has never been used.
- Ms. Bauer said she agrees in theory but also a lot of the situations are just abandoned houses where people are throwing their garbage or squatting or what have you.
- Mr. Malinchak said they would not be flipping abandoned houses.
- Ms. Bauer said yes actually they do.
- Mr. Malinchak said they flip abandoned houses, wow.
- Ms. Bauer said absolutely.
- Mr. McCall said welcome to the 21st Century Ray.
- Ms. Bauer said she thinks on EBay, there is a price list.

- Mr. Malinchak said something about Buyer Beware, it doesn't apply to anything.
- Ms. Bauer said they have had a very few of those situations where she thinks someone in Florida one time bought one and there were no windows and no roof. She said the guy came up and said the picture on the internet....
- Chief Lust said he helped a guy out from Jamaica that was in his office. He said the guy bought it on the internet for \$1,200. He said a guy from New York it was a Park Street.
- Mr. Segina said there was also a guy who bought property up on Jenny Lind and it had been demolished the week before he bought the property and he was thinking there was a house on it. He said that is the kind of stuff that goes on through the internet and it is something that the State should look into and stop that sort of trade.
- Mr. Tedesco said another thing he has is, being that this is the last Council meeting before the Primary and some of them can't wait until then, he does want to say that no matter the outcome on May 17, it is his sincere hope that they come back in June and move along and on in the best interest of the City. He said he sincerely means that to everyone in this room. He said on a lighter note, Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers this Sunday.
- Ms. Walker said she wanted to thank the Daily News and it was a while ago they gave her a Laurel for driving around and finding the streets that needed to be paved. She said she wanted to publicly thank them for that. She said she also wanted thank the Lions Club for working with the City with the Summer Concert series and as well with the donations for the fireworks. She said she forgot the two

other names for the places but wants to thank them as well. She said she also wants to tell the public about a Public Hearing tomorrow from 7:00 to 9:00 at the High School regarding the budget cuts. She said everyone should come to that hearing. She said she also wanted to bring up something that they brought up and were talking about the budget and the Delta Report which is the enforcement of ordinances. She said she would like to see if they could do a Work Session around this because what she would like to do is just talk about how they enforce ordinances and how does that look and the taxes to the landlords and what the Controller brought up yesterday about back taxes and buy backs for that ... across the board just with the enforcement of ordinances and how that looks and whether they need to add to them or take away or contact the State for that. She said she wants to have a Work Session where they bring the Ordinance Officers in and talk with them about ... and she doesn't know if anyone else agrees with that but it is something she thinks they should do. She said they are always talking about ordinances and that they are not being enforced right and they don't know exactly what is going on or how they are doing it. She said she would like to get some feedback opinions on that.

- Mr. Segina said he agrees. He said they codify those ordinances don't they.
- Ms. Bauer said they have a large manual and actually over the course of several years they have gone through this process of meeting with the Ordinance Officers and Police Department and trying to fine tune both their efforts while expanding the net of what they are able to accomplish. She said they are very hamstrung in terms of what they can and cannot do. She said she thinks it is a wonderful idea if there are new faces and new ideas. She said that would be great. She said they are trying.

- Ms. Walker said can the Mayor schedule that with them.
- Mayor McLaughlin said he will do that.
- Ms. Walker the last thing is that yesterday at the work session they talked about investigating the tonnage and she found some other companies that they may be able to contact and one of them is Unified Investigations and Gentile-Meinert & Associates. She said she will give him their phone numbers so they can perhaps contact them to investigate. She said that is all she has.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. Segina said at one time they were talking about trash and at one time they used to have Earth Day which was usually on May 1 or thereabouts. He said different organizations would come into McKeesport like the United Way and people like Verizon and the Welfare Office, workers from different organizations in the County, would come in and pick up trash along the roadways. He said they would fill up the dumpsters then and they also constructed a gazebo down at the Boys and Girls Club. He said they also did some paint jobs and fixed some houses while they were there. He said he would like to see that program come back again and he doesn't know what happened to it. He said the following day he would have a recycling day for used motor oil, cardboard, old appliances and they had a dumpster down there for that so they could take it away to the scrap yards. He said he doesn't know what happened but ... he would like to see that resurrected some time. He said he thinks the Weed and Seed organization used to have that didn't they.
- Mr. Shermenti said United Way was involved in that and it was called ... Day of Caring. He said he is embarrassed to say this but United Way said they

would not come back anymore because they were working on the same areas every year and they were tired of doing the same job year after year. He said they used to bring Home Depot in

- Mr. Segina said do they still do it.
- Mr. Shermenti said they still do it but they took McKeesport off their list. He said they used to bring 30 to 40 Home Depot employees and they volunteered. He said Mr. Segina is absolutely right. He said this has been maybe six years ago.
- Mr. Segina said they would drop the bags and then they would pick them up the next day.
- Mayor McLaughlin said they came in one time and painted all the buildings at Steel View.
- Mr. Segina said that was a great thing and he wished they would come back.
- Mr. Shermenti said it was part of that program.
- Mr. Segina said maybe they could send them a letter and say they still need their help and they will find different locations. He said he is sure there are other locations they can go to. He said this place down here now is pretty clean down along the trail. He said that is all he has.
- Mr. McCall said he has one question that he did not get to ask Chief Lust. He said is the testing of the part-time firefighters all done now.
 - Chief Lust said yes that list is in Mary Ann Popovich of the Civil Service Commissions hands. He said she will present that to the Mayor and they will see if they can get some people hired. He said he is down two part-timers at this time.

- Mr. McCall said how many full timers is he down.
- Chief Lust said none actually. He said they have 20 full-timers and 12 part-timers. He said he is down to 12 part-timers.
- Mayor McLaughlin said he has received the list from the Civil Service.
- Ms. Diggs said she wants to know what landlords have to do or are made to do when people move out. She said they have a lot of transients that come in and stay two or three months. She said there was some woman with children and the baby was sick, in and out of the hospital, but they never had any water in the house. She said who takes care of this.
- Ms. Bauer said she thinks it is maybe two-pronged and depends on what the situation is. She said sometimes it is the Ordinance Officers who should take care of it, sometimes it is the Building Inspector and actually sometimes the Police Department and the Fire Department can get involved if there are fire hazards like no heat in the house.
- Ms. Diggs said they had that too.
- Ms. Bauer said occasionally it is also the Health Department. She said she just heard in the back that Children, Youth and Family Services may be called if there are children involved. She said from what she understands, if a person, an adult, wants to live a certain way, they can however if there is a child or children involved and maybe even an elderly person, the rules are a little bit different. She said she doesn't know if this person or persons are still here in the community but they can certainly look at the situation and try to help them. She said she has a program to

pay water bills if they income qualify and she would love to use the money.

- Ms. Diggs said there was a young lady who had four children down the street from her and she found out she did not have any gas this winter. She said she knew the landlord and called him and he saw that the gas was on. She said she was a young lady on Section 8. She said she could have called CYF and should have.
- Ms. Bauer said she doesn't know about Section 8 because she knows that the Housing Authority inspects their units.
- Ms. Diggs said they eventually put her out about a month ago.
- Ms. Bauer said did they put her out or put the landlord out of the program.
- Ms. Diggs said they put her out of the program.
- Ms. Bauer said there must have been other circumstances.
- Ms. Diggs said he took care of the heat for the children.
- Mr. Segina said that is something that has been lacking in our town. He said they have resources to take care of problems like that.
- Ms. Diggs said really.
- Mr. Segina said there is a Resource Center and it is on Sinclair Street.
- Ms. Diggs said that is all she does is complain about it.

- Mr. Segina said they will take care of gas bills, electric bills and of course people have to pass certain income levels.
- Ms. Diggs said she knows about the Bridge.
- Mr. Segina said that is where she should refer them to. He said that and the Salvation Army will give them a meal if they don't have food.
- Ms. Diggs said they have kids and don't have water.
- Mr. Segina said if there is an emergency like that then there are places to go to so if anyone has a problem He said the problem is that they don't sell those things and show people that those exist. He said they fund them with the HUD funds. He said they should let people know they are there.
- Ms. Bauer said if she comes across another situation like that or one similar, she will give Ms. Diggs her phone number and they can see what or who can assist them depending on what the situation may or may not be.
- Ms. Walker said there is also LIHEAP for the gas and a CAP program for Duquesne Light.
- Ms. Diggs said she knows this but this young lady didn't care. She said she cared. She said she should have called CYF on her.
- Mr. Segina said what is the best organization to call if something like that happens.
- Ms. Bauer said depending on what they need is the ... 1-877-350-HPRP is the HPRP Hotline down at the County and she has federal funds for. She said she deals with the Salvation Army, and knows Lois Brown

and Debbie Cioli through Bridge to Recovery. She said she thinks they even have a LIHEAP office on Fifth.

- Mr. Segina said the material to help families in distress is all here.
- Ms. Bauer said it is a spread out effort though.
- Ms. Diggs said what is the number?
- Ms. Bauer said it is 1-877-350-HPRP ... and she doesn't remember the last numbers but they are the letters H-P-R-P. She said the number is 1-877-350-4777. She said that can help for rent, deposits for rent, utility bills including 6 months going backwards and utility deposits. She said she just can't help homeowners. She said however she did see something recently about a new Homeowner's Act that is coming into play in Pennsylvania through the President. She said she has not read up on that yet but it goes with the mortgages.
- Ms. Diggs said thank you.
- Mr. McCall said he thinks a while back that they were going to get a list and put this all together into a format so that if they need it they can come down to the City and pick it up or if anyone needs the help. He said they could list the types of things that they can do.
- Ms. Bauer said actually she has seen two or three of those manuals. She said one was done by a young lady, Ruth Smith and Diane George with the McKeesport Collaborative. She said she believes the Weed and Seed SHIP group did something as well. She said she doesn't know if the Ministerium has something going on as well. She said she has seen them with the funding changes though that list may be squeezed.

- Mr. McCall said they should look and see if they can do it again and get a hold of them and see what they have and they can put it together for people.
- Ms. Bauer said absolutely.
- Mr. Cherepko said he would like to comment on Mr. Tedesco's comments. He said he couldn't agree with Mr. Tedesco more because it seems like as a City they have fallen back to the old days of controversy and small-minded insults which in the end just make their City Government look like a circus. He said he too is looking forward to getting this election over and working with each and every one on this Board as a Council because they need to keep the best interest of the City at heart. He said Ms. Walker commented on something that he would like to talk about. He said tomorrow evening the rally at the High School, it is a Town Hall Meeting and Senator Brewster, Representative Marc Gergley and Representative Kortz will be there. He said they need to make sure that they as a community are there. He said from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the High School. He said also at 6:00 p.m. he invites each and every one of them to spread the word and they are meeting at the band shell for a little gathering and then they are going to march from there down into the Town Hall Meeting at the High School. He said he really doesn't think that they quite grasp these cuts. He said he was just in Harrisburg the other day addressing just this issue. He said of course they are getting here at the government level and getting into everything. He said the School District is no different. He said they are really hitting McKeesport hard. He said they have no idea just how detrimental it will be to the youth of the community. He said he says community because it is not just a school district issue, it is a community issue. He said that they are just cutting it evenly across the board. He said he promises

them that is not true. He said some of them might be sitting out here thinking well that is because McKeesport gets more funding so they are just getting more cuts. He said that is not even true. He said the fact of the matter is that Governor Corbett has said that they have been cut in their district roughly \$4.5 million. He said the Governor is taking every one back to 2008 and whatever the funding was in 2008, he is saying that is where he is putting them. He said let him say this, if they go back to 2008 and look at the money that the school district was getting they are now according to this new budget if passed as is, will be receiving \$1 million less than that. He said they are being told they are all being hit evenly. He said he can tell them another thing, on the other end, there are more affluent school districts who are actually going to be given more money that what they had back in 2008. He said yes they are getting cut now and they are being told they are going back to 2008 but \$1 million more is being taken from McKeesport. He said they are actually taking McKeesport back to 2006. He said he thinks it is important that they stand up as a community and get out there and show their support. He said their representatives are behind this and they will talk to him about who to get in contact with. He said this is an issue that he is telling them as an educator in McKeesport School District, he has seen how far they have come in the last 12 years and he truly believes that as far as they have come, in just one or two years with these budget cuts, they cannot only go back to where they came from but below that even further all within two years. He said they are talking about programs that they can lose that are just so beneficial to these students. He said once again it starts with their youth. He said this is not just a school district issue. He said he is hoping to see these faces here that are in this audience and hopes Mr. Cloonan can spread the word even further. He said he knows

they have advertised this but it is very important that they get out and support this. He said the children are their future. He said the bottom line is they need to make sure they are getting educations and programs for things they need and it starts right here. He said they need to stand up and make sure they are fighting. He said thank you to Fawn for bringing it up. He said that concludes his report.

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Cherepko called the first citizen, James Fagan, to come forward and state his name and address for the record and told him he has three minutes to speak.

JAMES FAGAN, 1909 WILLOW STREET, McKEESPORT, PA.

Mr. Fagan said he is a lifelong citizen of McKeesport and has known Mayor Rege forever. He said his concern is that he is a transplant basically to the Menzie Plan up in Seventh Ward. He said Dennis Pittman had a lot to do with that and he appreciates that and respects it. He said it was a potential area of growth and of interest to them when they were looking for property to buy and wound up in McKeesport. He said when they were building those houses up there, and believe it or not he said who in the world is going to buy a new house in McKeesport. He said two years later he was one of those owners. He said it looked good and looked like there would be growth and a future. He said that is what they were promoting at the time. He said this is what they are trying to do now and hope that it stays in that same vein. He said to be exact, he lives on Willow between the parallel streets of Riverview and Jenny Lind. He said the street itself is like a roller coaster. He said they repaired it once some years ago. He said right now it is really playing havoc with trucks and automobiles and anything else that rolls down the street. He said they are concerned about that. He said the other concern is

that there is a lot across the street from where they reside that they have razed four buildings. He said he and his neighbor maintain that lot but primarily his neighbor who is Tee Patterson. He said they maintain that lot after they tore those houses down and what they are trying to do is make sure that it doesn't become a dumping spot for disabled vehicles or anything else. He said they do in fact police the area and cut it and everything like that. He said it is important to their property value. He said what they would like to have happen is that the area be perused or whatever needs to be done to make sure that does not happen. He said he thinks it is the City of McKeesport's property as it stands right now. He said what they don't want is that it become a dumping place.

- Mr. Cherepko said he couldn't agree more and he personally wants to thank him for maintaining that property and he would think that as soon as they become aware that there is any of this going on or a possibility looks like it may take place that they should contact the Mayor's office or the police chief whichever route they want to go and he can assure him that it will go back to the ordinances and they will have the Ordinance Officers who put forth their exhaustive efforts and once again they appreciate it. He said he will assure him that they will make sure as a body that they will, and he thinks he can speak on behalf of all of them for that, make sure that doesn't happen.
- Mr. Fagan said it is right in the vein of what they were talking about and he didn't know that about all this with the City and trying to keep the City looking presentable. He said he would appreciate it.
- Mayor McLaughlin said when he was up there the other day and it was pouring down rain, Tee was over there cutting the grass. He said he doesn't know how he was cutting the grass but he was.
- Mr. Fagan said he and Tee both cut the grass but mostly Tee who is out there all the time cutting that grass and they pick

up any debris that is there and because when they look out they might get an empty lot but it doesn't have to look like a junk yard.

- Mayor McLaughlin said well they have help. He said Ms. Stinson lives right up on the corner from them and she can keep an eye on that.
- Mr. Cherepko said thank you Mr. Fagan.

**WARREN MACLAREN, 2719 LAFAYETTE STREET,
McKEESPORT, PA.**

Mr. MacLaren said he just has a couple of quick questions. He said is the schedule for the housing demolition the same as last year and is it ongoing as far as the homes that were on the list to be torn down.

- Mayor McLaughlin said they have to do a new list. He said they have to go out and check some houses and do a new list.
- Mr. MacLaren said they have one up on Milburn Street that was promised to be torn down this year but he just
- Mayor McLaughlin said what part of Milburn.
- Mr. MacLaren said it is the 2700 block down towards the end, 2724. He said another question he has is for the Firemen. He said is there an update on the fire hydrants on LaFayette Street and McCarrell.
- Chief Lust said right after that fire that they had up there. He said it was mishap with the engine. He said they had a meeting on it.
- Mr. MacLaren said the water company was up there a couple of weeks ago and they
- Chief Lust said they do tests for them and they get reports back on that.

- Mr. MacLaren said there was a TV ... they interviewed one of the neighbors on TV up there at the end of last year and the pressure was so low there.
- Chief Lust said that is the end of the line up there.
- Mr. MacLaren said apparently it is still the same.
- Chief Lust said yes, he is not a water authority but everything is on top of the hill there and believe it or not there are still people that don't have sewage up there and still have septic tanks at the end of McCarrell Street and LaFayette.
- Mr. MacLaren said there should be some kind of an update about it. He said they were there checking the hydrants and there should be someone
- Chief Lust said they did cut in down on LaFayette down over but that was right
- Mr. MacLaren said yes they have been working on that sewage and that down there. He said okay thank you.

**V. SCHNEL SIMMONS, 3022 JENNY LIND STREET,
McKEESPORT, PA.**

Ms. Simmons said recently ... well not just recently but she has been having some problems in the last few years with vandalism on her house. She said most recently she did talk with the Mayor and he did come up and did see the vandalism. She said she has acid poured on her porch, acid poured in her tree to kill it and that has happened twice. She said February 18 was the date that he was there. She said on March 1, she talked with the Mayor and brought him the papers and pictures and she had pictures prior to that time. She said she had to get a burglar alarm system because she did not realize ... and she thinks she was just too naïve to believe that someone was coming in and out of her house and removing documents and throwing things on the floor. She said she just could not fathom it. She said she recently redid her house and had all new

windows put in her house and insulation and all new siding. She said she saved the windows and set them in her yard for them to be used so she could close in her porch. She said those windows were broken and she bought some used windows and had them stacked on her porch so she could use those windows for the side of her porch. She said those were also vandalized. She said so many things have been going on. She said she has a tree in her back yard and had 35 feet cut off the top of the tree and it was there when she bought the house and she has been there for 40 years. She said it has cost her so much money. She said when she called the police, the police ... and she really wants them to know this ... some of them have been very, very polite but some of them have been very smart. She said she does not appreciate it. She said everything she has she has worked for. She said she had two businesses at one time and have planned for this time in her life and every month she is spending two, three or four hundred dollars to repair this vandalism. She said she is angry.

- Mayor McLaughlin said excuse me Schnel and he doesn't mean to interrupt her but he wonders if maybe she and Schnel can go in the back room and get this straightened out.
- Chief Washowich said yes sir, absolutely.
- Ms. Simmons said okay but she just wants this Council to know that there are people that live in their community that are vicious ... vicious to the point that they will destroy a person's livelihood. She said she has worked all her life and she is now retired. She said if someone wants to help her find a job she will be happy to take it. She said thank you very much.

SANDRA RIOUX, 2505 COLLINS STREET, McKEESPORT, PA.

Ms. Rioux said her concern is the vehicles that are on the street that have been there for years. She said some of them have been there for years. She said they have been orange-tagged but are not being taken. She said she calls the police and they

say they are doing the best they can, take it or leave it. She said that is what the police have told her. She said there are broken windshields and they can see the radiator. She said there are no headlights and these cars are just falling apart and she has called the police. She said like she said she gets told take it or leave it. She said they tell her they have done the best they can and that is what they are telling her.

- Mayor McLaughlin said what is her address.
- Ms. Rioux said it is 2505 Collins Street. She said the other day there was a child playing on one of the vehicles pounding on the window with a cat ... throwing a cat against it. She said she knows they did call the police but she doesn't know what was done but it is a very serious problem. She said she doesn't dare let her grandson go out and play near these vehicles. She said these are dysfunctional vehicles and the police don't want to accommodate her.
- Mayor McLaughlin said he will be there tomorrow morning.
- Ms. Rioux said thank you.

**BEATRICE LONGO, 200 WAINWRIGHT DRIVE,
McKEESPORT, PA.**

Ms. Longo said good evening. She said she first of all would like to preface her remarks by saying that she really wanted to speak about the trash situation in McKeesport, the increase in the tonnage and as she said she lives on Wainwright Drive and she has to say that since Nickolich Sanitation started picking up the trash on her street, they have done an excellent job. She said their workers have always been very polite unlike the previous company, there has not been trash left on the street and trash cans are put back in the yard with the lids. She said she has no complaints about their service. She said she looks down the street and it looks like it is the same amount of trash there always was and the tonnage doesn't seem to be coming from her neighborhood in terms of the increase.

She said she was here at the last City Council meeting and she heard them vote 7-0 to proceed with an independent investigation of the dramatic increase in the trash tonnage in this City and the resulting increase in the cost to this community. She said she was very surprised when she attended the business meeting last night to find out that their unanimous vote has gone almost nowhere.

- Mr. Cherepko said if he may correct her, the resolution that was passed was to conduct an investigation and it was not to hire an independent investigator.
- Ms. Longo said he is right to complete an investigation and she understood that the investigation was not to target Nickolich Sanitation but was to see instead where this increase was coming from. She said they have heard about dumping tonight so obviously a lot of it is coming from dumping, from people who are in housing in an unauthorized manner but she believes there was a feeling on the part of Council that they needed to find out what was the cause of this almost \$2,000 or over \$2,000
- Mayor McLaughlin said 2,000 tons not dollars.
- Ms. Longo said 2,000 tons resulting in \$300,000. She said she believes that Mr. Segina found one company and was presenting it as part of his investigation and she heard Mr. Cherepko say last night that he wanted to hear first what Nickolich Sanitation had to say before proceeding with what they all voted on, investigating an investigator.
- Mr. Cherepko said first of all, that was part of the investigation to see what Mr. Nickolich ... and actually when she is finished here, which her three minutes is up, he will actually be the next speaker and there is a gentleman that is going to address this Council, address this audience and address the media with concerns that they may have.

- Ms. Longo said but it is not Mr. Nickolich who should be doing this investigation. She said they are not up there to protect Mr. Nickolich, they are there to protect....
- Mr. Cherepko said excuse me, excuse me
- Ms. Longo said to protect the interest of the citizens....
- Mr. Cherepko said first of all, excuse me, that is what they are doing. He said he doesn't want to jump the gun and go out and spend \$5,000 or \$10,000 for an independent investigator. He said he thinks if she was here last evening, she heard that this Council agreed that if that is the what they are going to do is go after an independent investigator, they are not going to jump down the first one they get. He said they are going to go out and they are going to get
- Ms. Longo said she does understand that and in fact she brought them the names of about six investigators and she did not have enough time but did look up three of them on the internet and will provide them to him after the meeting. She said also she believes that the investigation needs to go forward whoever does it.
- Mr. Cherepko said that is what they are doing and they talked about that last night, thank you.
- Ms. Walker said she would like to respond to that because she doesn't agree because they are pursuing the investigation. She said they voted on it last month and last night as she witnessed they talked about pursuing it and talked about going through with it and Mr. Tedesco brought up the Request for Proposal which is where they are going through now and if she sees tonight she just gave two more companies and the President is going to move forward with this. She said she does not agree with that this is falling on deaf ears. She said they are going to investigate it and they are looking at companies so that they can get the best price.

- Ms. Longo said okay, she guesses they have a different view of moving forward. She said to her moving forward means that they voted on it one night and then they begin
- Ms. Walker said they voted on it in one meeting and in the next month they decided they are going to do it.
- Ms. Longo said but in the meantime it seems to her they should have obtained the names of several different places
- Ms. Walker said they did obtain the names but they have to approve that as a Council. She said they only meet once a month so regardless if one person got one name, they can't do anything without the approval of Council.
- Ms. Longo said she understands that but she is saying....
- Ms. Walker said well if she understands that then she understands that they voted in April....
- Ms. Longo said there are seven people
- Ms. Walker said and therefore this is May so therefore they move in May.
- Ms. Longo said so they will wait until June to hear about what these other companies are.
- Ms. Walker said they can't do anything without the approval of Council and that happens at a Council meeting.
- Ms. Longo said she understands that
- Ms. Walker said if she understands that then she understands that they move forward with this
- Mr. Cherepko said he would like to thank Ms. Longo for her time and thanks Ms. Walker for her time and they are moving on.

- Ms. Longo said she thinks they could be done to investigate that
- Ms. Walker said she doesn't think she understands the political process.
- Mr. Cherepko said thank you.

JOHN LINKOSKY, ESQUIRE FOR NICK NICKOLICH, 715 WASHINGTON AVENUE, CARNEGIE, PA 15106. Mr. Linkosky said good evening and he is an attorney who is here on behalf of Nick Nickolich to speak to this ongoing controversy that he has read about in newspapers and he guesses has been playing out here with Council over the last month or so concerning this garbage collection and the perceived increase in tonnage. He said he has read newspaper articles and has heard comments made that accuse Mr. Nickolich of fraud against the City and engaging in criminal conduct with respect to this tonnage

- Mr. Segina said where did he see that.
- Mr. Linkosky said he wants to caution the people who made these comments that they ought to know what they are talking about and be able to prove what they are talking about before they engage in defamatory and slanderous
- Mr. Segina said show him where he sees that in what newspaper
- Mr. Linkosky said in defamatory and slanderous comments.
- Mr. Segina said show him what newspaper he saw that in.
- Mr. Linkosky said he sat here tonight and he heard just about every topic that was discussed dealt with excess trash. He said they heard about illegal dumping and tons and tons of garbage that are dropped off at the municipality dumpsters every week and these dumpsters get emptied. He said they are empty Friday and are filled up on Monday.

He said what does anybody think happens to that garbage. He said Nickolich hauls it away. He said they heard about abandoned houses filled with garbage and Ms. Walker talked about garbage in the streets and a plan to have people clean up the garbage as volunteers. He said where does that garbage go. He said it gets picked up by Nickolich and hauled to the dump. He said Mr. Segina was talking about Earth Day and picking up garbage. He said to sit here it is apparent to him that the City is filled with excess garbage. He said for example today, in one day, Nickolich's truck picked up twelve sets of wet mattresses and box springs. He said that was 12 sets in one day. He said this happens on a weekly basis. He said how many sleeper sofas do you think they picked up today? He said there were five. He said they have had 27 days of rain out of 30 someone said. He said what do they think happens to this stuff when it sits out on a curb overnight and gets saturated with water. He said it gets heavy. He said that is where the tonnage comes from and the thing that really irritates him and one of the reasons he came here tonight to talk for Nick was that with all this talk about excess tonnage, how many phone calls were made to Nick Nickolich by Council, the Mayor's office, the Administrator, the Controller or anyone to find out the reason why there is tons and tons extra garbage. He said he has an answer to that ... zero. He said nobody called. He said you didn't call, you didn't call, nobody called. He said if they want to sit there and make accusations and accuse Nickolich of criminal conduct and fraud, please do him the service of picking up the telephone and asking him what is going on. He said had they done that, they would see that every day ... this is the kind of garbage that Nickolich is faced with here in McKeesport on a daily basis. He said he picks up the garbage five days a week and this morning they started to take a couple of pictures in preparation for tonight's meeting. He said here and he will pass these around and they are more than welcome to them. He said the first one shows a stack of garbage as high as a garage. He said what is he supposed to do. He said he has to pick it

up. He said he has to clean it up. He said that weighs a lot. He said here is another one from today and there are commodes, furniture, junk, planters and here is behind Pirl Street taken today and they have been working for weeks to clean this up.

- Mayor McLaughlin said does John know where this was.
- Mr. Linkosky said Nick might know.
- Mr. Nickolich said they did not get addresses, he just told his drivers to use their cell phones to take the picture so they could have some things here to show them tonight. He said they were not taking pictures all along for the last couple of years of what they have been dealing with.
- Mr. Linkosky said here is one from Highview Gardens and there is still snow on the ground so it is not taken today. He said it gives them an idea. He said it is like that all of the time. He said here is up by Craig's Funeral Home last week and there is a pile of garbage that is just incredible. He said here is last week again by Craig's Funeral Home. He said here is a good one from the summer of 2010 and another one from two weeks ago near Crawford Village. He said there are couches and bags of garbage. He said if anyone would have bothered to ask there would have been an explanation. He said maybe they don't know but Nickolich takes everything. He said it is in the contract. He said the other contractors did not. He said the previous waste companies, Allied, did not take everything. He said Nickolich does, they take it all.
- Mr. Nickolich said they take a lot of grass.
- Mr. Linkosky said a ton of grass comes out every week and that is heavy.
- Ms. Diggs said they pick up at Highview twice a week and it is always like this. She said she sees it out her kitchen

window. She said she looks over there and she said some of the kids come out and they don't care where it goes.

- Mr. Linkosky said every month McKeesport gets a list broken down by day and broken down by tonnage as well as the receipts from the landfill. He said for every day the garbage is picked up in McKeesport, the trucks go to the landfill and they get the receipts. He said guess how many questions Nickolich has had since he has had the contract about these receipts which they get every month. He said do they know how many questions, zero. He said again, if they have a problem or a question about it, pick up the phone and ask them. He said they want to conduct an investigation and that is all well and good and if they want to spend taxpayer's money to hire a private investigator firm to go and look at what Nickolich is doing. He said he has a better idea. He said if they have a question about this tonnage and if anybody has a question, they are more than welcome to ride with Nickolich's garbage truck any day of the week they want and come and sit with the driver and watch what they do. He said they can start with them in the morning and see for themselves when the truck is empty and when it is full and ride with the truck to the dump, sit on the scale with it and get it weighed before hand, dump it and get it weighed afterwards and they will see. He said anyone is welcome to do that. He said it is completely up to them and it is an open offer that Nick Nickolich will make. He said if they don't want to ride in the garbage truck, then follow the truck. He said call Nickolich today and say today they want to follow a garbage truck or three garbage trucks. He said that his fine. He said he will tell them where they will start and they can get up and look inside if they want and see what is in there. He said they can start at 4:00 in the morning when they start or can meet them at Nickolich's yard or they can follow them to McKeesport or follow them through the streets. He said he has no problem with them doing that. He said what he has a problem with is being

accused of this criminal and fraudulent conduct and no one has taken advantage of that. He said give him a break.

- Ms. Longo said so he should welcome an investigation.
- Mr. Cherepko said excuse me, Ms. Longo is out of order.
- Mr. Linkosky said that is what he just said, he welcomes an investigation. He said if they want to pay a private investigator to ride in one of his garbage trucks, be his guest. He said he wants to close with this. He said in 2009 had Allied Waste had the McKeesport garbage contract at the rates that they were charging, for the trash that was picked up in 2009, it would have cost \$334,805.00 more than they paid Nickolich. He said in 2010, that number is \$358,920.81. He said so there is a big uproar here and accusations flying like crazy that Nickolich is over-charging the City but if they compare him to who was there before or compare him to the other bidders for the contract he got, he is saving the City over \$500,000 in two years.
- Mr. Nickolich said something about the other bidders and that he wouldn't have been bidding the garbage
- Mr. Linkosky said that they would have paid the other bidders....
- Mr. Nickolich said not Allied Waste.
- Mr. Linkosky said not Allied Waste, the other bidders. He said it is more than \$500,000, almost \$700,000 in two years he saved the City. He said so if any of them want to make a commitment now, they have Nickolich's number, make a commitment to the people of the City of McKeesport that they are going to come and ride on his garbage truck and check it out themselves and see whether he is overcharging for tonnage. He said Mr. Nickolich more than welcomes that investigation. He said thank you.

- Mr. Segina said he would like to respond to that if he doesn't mind. He said first of all, he doesn't think anyone made any accusations towards Nickolich, they were wondering why the tonnage had increased. He said he thinks because they have responsibilities as Council people to address those kinds of issues.
- Ms. Walker said exactly.
- Mr. Segina said they thought they would be saving so much more money such as in the instance of 2008 they thought they would save around \$140,000 ... he meant 2009 and in 2010 they thought they would save \$160,000. He said now the reason he did not get any phone calls is that Mr. Shermenti came in and said here is what they have as far as dumping goes. He said Mr. Shermenti was answering for Mr. Nickolich. He said no one said Mr. Nickolich committed fraud or that they were going to directly investigate him. He said they want to know why the tonnage had increased. He said that is the problem they have because ... forget the dollars, it is the tonnage that rules the roof. He said that influences the dollars. He said that is why they should know as Council persons that they are getting a fair count on that 2,000 tons. He said they want to know if there is illegal dumping and they want to know how to stem that tide. He said that is their purpose sir.
- Mr. Linkosky said the articles he has read accused Nickolich of overcharging McKeesport.
- Ms. Walker said they did not write those
- Mr. Segina said he doesn't know where he is reading that and it did not come from his mouth.
- Ms. Walker said it didn't come from Council.
- Mr. Segina said he is talking about tonnage.

- Mr. Linkosky said he did not accuse Mr. Segina of saying it, did he.
- Mr. Segina said no, he did not.
- Mr. Linkosky said he said he read the articles.
- Ms. Walker said he accused the Council....
- Mr. Segina said there are seven Councilmen here.
- Mr. Linkosky said it has been an issue in front of Council, he knows that
- Mr. McCall said he means the Controller.
- Mr. Linkosky said he was not here of course.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks they would still like to proceed with that investigation. He said if it is ... they are not virgin when it comes to this kind of dumping, he was Public Works Director for twenty years. He said they had the same problems then if not more severe because they had more population. He said back then the City was at 28,000 when he was Public Works Director. He said these things here have always occurred and they took those in stride and tried to stem the tide too by looking to see who was dumping down there at the dump and they tried to catch some of those people and they did. He said he thinks it is only fair that they respond to the public to say why has it increased 2,000 tons. He said they have a track record of Allied Waste picking up 10,000 on the average for three years, 10,300 tons. He said they have a track record now with Mr. Nickolich of 12,300 tons. He said Mr. Linkosky may be right with every one of them and maybe that is what is causing this problem. He said he wants to know why. He said if it isn't that it is something else and he wants to know why. He said is there something wrong with him being responsible to the citizens of this town ... to find out why?

- Mr. Linkosky said he thinks they owe it to the citizens to find out why but he thinks ... what he thinks is that they should not be accusing the garbage hauler of defrauding the citizens.
- Mr. Segina said he doesn't think anyone accused him.
- Mr. Linkosky said they should not be accusing the garbage hauler of defrauding the citizens, that is what they should be doing.
- Ms. Walker said they did not do that.
- Mr. Linkosky said if they want to look into it they are more than welcome like he just said. He said they have an open invitation and if they want to start tomorrow ... are they working tomorrow and picking up garbage in McKeesport....
- Mr. Segina said he would like to see it
- Mr. Linkosky said if they want to come tomorrow morning at 4:00 and meet his truck they can ride with it tomorrow or ride with it the rest of the year.
- Mr. Segina said he is not letting him finish a sentence.
- Mr. McCall said he is an attorney.
- Mr. Segina said all he is saying is that he would like to have an independent investigation to see what this problem is. He said is there anything wrong with that. He said where is Mr. Linkosky from?
- Mr. Linkosky said to see what his problem is?
- Mr. Segina said no he said to see what the problem is. He said don't put words in his mouth. He said he wanted to be an attorney when he was young like him.
- Mr. Linkosky said was he young like him.

- Mr. Shermenti said Mr. Segina he would like to make one correction here, excuse him, he would like to make one correction here. He said he was not speaking for Mr. Nickolich, he did his own investigation. He said they mentioned that he came forth and was speaking for Nickolich but he was not.
- Mr. Segina said Nick was speaking for ... he stands corrected because Nick did make a presentation.
- Mr. Shermenti said that is all he did sir, he did not quote anybody.
- Mr. Segina said he is right.
- Mr. McCall said in 2009 and 2010, when they had those storms and everything that was blowing through here, where did all the trees and everything go? He said did they have an outside source come in and get rid of those trees.
- Mr. Shermenti said Nickolich hauled them all away.
- Mr. McCall said they all went in the dumpsters.
- Mr. Shermenti said they went in the dumpsters.
- Mr. McCall said that is a lot of tonnage.
- Mr. Tedesco said he would like to say that it is unfortunate that the contents of an anonymous letter made it to the papers. He said however being that it did become public, it is in the best interest of this Council and now in the best interest of Mr. Nickolich that they do proceed with the investigation.
- Mr. Segina said then they clear him if there is nothing wrong there.
- Mr. Linkosky said he just gave them an open invitation to do whatever they wanted to do. He said he just wished they would have called him and talked to him.

- Mr. Tedesco said now he is accusing this Council of releasing the contents of that letter.
- Ms. Walker said they didn't.
- Mr. Tedesco said maybe he should speak to the media and ask them how they got the contents of that letter.
- Mr. Segina said an investigation if it is like he is saying, would clear him. He said right?
- Mr. Linkosky said all he asked for was
- Mr. Segina said is he right?
- Mr. Linkosky said all he asked for was a phone call before ... and that is what he is offering ... maybe they misunderstand his offer.
- Mr. Segina said there is nothing to ask Mr. Nickolich.
- Mr. Linkosky said his offer is for them or their investigator ... if they want to hire someone to ride in the garbage trucks, have at it. He said that
- Mr. Cherepko said he doesn't think that he is thinking too out ... unreasonably because he thinks that was one of the suggestions he had yesterday.
- Mr. Linkosky said that is fine.
- Mr. Cherepko said it would be cheaper and he said why not just ride along ... but no if this is what the Council wants to do they will do it but that is why once again, like he said, he never called to find out. He said he is guilty of that but he did want to wait until this evening to hear what he had to say.
- Mr. Linkosky said he thinks that was wise.

- Mr. Cherepko said he thought that was only the right thing to do before they jumped to conclusions and went ahead and pay \$5,000 or \$10,000 or whatever an investigation would cost. He said the other thing that he mentioned that he never thought of which was a good point is that he is exactly right because he was born and raised in McKeesport. He said the other garbage haulers did not haul everything. He said if it was not packed up nice and was not all ready to be picked up ... that is true. He said he never thought about that.
- Mr. Segina said he would like to correct him on that. He said it is in the contract that they are supposed to do that.
- Mr. Cherepko said but what is in the contract and what they do is two different things.
- Mr. Segina said if they didn't then they make a phone call and there is a number for anyone who is the hauler and they would come back and get it.
- Mr. Cherepko said he is not saying they are right but
- Mr. Segina said it is under the contract.
- Mr. Cherepko said but his entire life they could ride around the City after garbage day and see cans everywhere and garbage not picked up because it wasn't stacked or bundled or it was just thrown out there. He said from what he sees from these pictures these were not really stacked. He said but like he said it is not just his two cents worth.
- Mr. Malinchak said he has a question if they don't mind. He said the increase in garbage between 2008 and 2009 was as Mr. Segina said over 2,000 tons which is about 19.6%. He said again if the information in the Daily News is correct, he thinks that there are nine other communities that are being serviced by Mr. Nickolich. He said is that correct.
- Mr. Linkosky said he knows he has other contracts.

- Mr. Malinchak said he really understands that McKeesport may have some unique situations but it rains in the other communities like it rains in McKeesport. He said they had a 19.6% increase and he knows this is an unfair question to him and he may have to get back to them with the answer but he wants to know if any other community out of these nine experience a similar increase?
- Mr. Linkosky said he is sure they could get back to him with that answer.
- Mr. Malinchak said he knows it is an unfair question.
- Mr. Linkosky said McKeesport has a unique ... like he said ... it is a little bit different. He said he thinks someone stood up here and spoke to the large transient population, people moving in and out constantly. He said when they have people who are transient like that, they create considerably more trash and garbage than people who live in a house for years. He said people don't take their broken box spring and mattress with them when they move and don't take their broken chest of drawers or the saggy old beat up sleeper sofa. He said if people are moving out every couple of months that is what happens and it just gets thrown out and thrown out and thrown out.
- Mr. Malinchak said he can understand....
- Mr. Linkosky said he would be happy to ask Nickolich whether or not anybody else experienced ... any of his other customers experienced an increase or a decrease.
- Mr. Malinchak said as a lawyer then the next logical question would be what is common between McKeesport and that community and then they will get right to the problem.
- Mr. Linkosky said yes, what is common or what is different.
- Mr. Nickolich said he can answer that and it is going to be unlimited pickup they have here. He said the unlimited

pickup would be different than a lot of his other communities. He said what they are billing

- Mr. Malinchak said if they have a cap in the other communities, where is the amount of trash above the limit accumulating. He said do they burn it or what.
- Mr. Nickolich said the pictures they provided and which they can provide a lot more than that, there is a lot of building material here. He said there was a garage door that one of his drivers told him about and it was cut up in three foot sections but he said they would pick it up. He said the driver said though the point is that there is no garage here.
- Mr. Malinchak said he realizes it and he heard the conversation before with the police department being involved with some action ... over the garbage. He said was it this weekend, it was Easter weekend. He said as an engineer he looks at things just like he looks at the logic tree as a lawyer and he says 19.6% ... what happened. He said no one is making any accusations. He said just like Mr. Segina said, if something leaked out there and reflected poorly ... in one of those anonymous letters they named him. He said that bothers him and they did not receive that letter, he received it directly. He said that bothers him. He said they are going forward with an investigation and if they are so receptive to an investigation and he doesn't want to embarrass him or put him on the spot, then why doesn't he co-fund it for them.
- Mr. Linkosky said they are not getting a big enough break when Nickolich charges them 2/3 of what the next lowest bidder charges them per ton to pick up the garbage. He said that is not a big enough break ... he wants Mr. Nickolich to cover the cost of their investigation.
- Mr. Malinchak said no, no, no, he didn't say cover the cost, he said co-fund.

- Mr. Linkosky said well here is his contribution. He said the doors of his garbage trucks are wide open for his people to come and join his crews whenever they want to ride during pickup, when they go to the dump and in fact here is what they will do. He said if they want to they can go right back to Nickolich's office that day and he will make them a photocopy of the dump receipt so that they know their person is in the truck from the start to the finish. He said they will have that copy and they can take that copy and compare it to the monthly....
- Mr. McCall said they get that invoice every month or is that daily.
- Mr. Shermenti said it is monthly but it broken down by day.
- Mr. McCall said they get to see this every month Ray and he has never questioned it before and all of the sudden he questioned it.
- Mr. Malinchak said whoa, whoa ... whoa....
- Mr. McCall said he just has one question because he was told that down at the Marina they had cut up boats and put them in the darn dumpsters. He said did they do that.
- Mr. Nickolich said they took a dumpster down there for a clean-up and he guessed they had some old boats that were cut up and put in it. He said what he can tell them that by the time the boats were in there, there was more than just boats; there was building material and stuff like that. He said that is an ongoing problem.
- Mr. Segina said may he say one thing here
- Mr. Cherepko said excuse me Mr. Segina he has a question. He said on the original bid ... because they keep hearing these numbers ... was it not bid out at 11-1/2.

- Mr. Nickolich said actually the number on the original bid was a number provided by McKeesport and it was bid on a per ton charge, not on a maximum of 11,500 tons or a minimum of 11,500 tons. He said the City provided an estimate and that estimate was their estimate and it was 11,500 tons.
- Mr. Cherepko said the City estimated that it was 11,500 tons. He said the junk they are talking about goes from 10,500. He said for whatever reason that estimate was 11,500, so somewhere in there someone who came up with that expected an increase. He said would that be correct to say Mr. Pittman.
- Mr. Pittman said he is sorry sir.
- Mr. Cherepko said he is trying to see if he was paying attention.
- Ms. Bauer said she was taking his attention and apologizes.
- Mr. Cherepko said when those bids went out, at the time they might have been at 10,500 to 11,000 tons but when they put the bids out they put them out at 11,500.
- Mr. Pittman said that is correct.
- Mr. Cherepko said his question is that they must have expected an increase if they put the bid out at 11,500.
- Mr. Shermenti said they did.
- Mr. Cherepko said he is sorry he could just
- Ms. Diggs said she would like to ask something. She said where she lives there is a lot of garbage because there are a lot of transients. She said in Haler Heights they don't see this because of location, location. She said they don't understand but if they lived where she lives for two months, they would see people moving in and out and they leave that stuff and it is all broken up and there are clothes. She

said they buy clothes because they can go to these different places and get free clothes for the kids so they just leave them and don't even wash them. She said she sees this constantly and it upsets her. She said she has to live in this trash bowl. She said she picks up the street.

- Mr. Segina said can he make a statement now.
- Mr. Cherepko said sure.
- Mr. Malinchak said he would like to correct the Councilman over there and if he would go back and look at the
- Mr. Cherepko said Mr. Malinchak, Mr. Segina asked for the floor.
- Mr. Malinchak said he is sorry Mr. Segina.
- Mr. Segina said if they are looking at this year's tonnage as they have in their budget, they are ahead of last year's pace too sir so it is not something that they can just cast it aside and say it happens. He said they are still ahead. He said last year they did 12,600 tons here and they are now going to approach the 13,000 and above. He said 11,500 tons that was put in there as an estimate only for the amount of tons they are putting in here. He said but the amount that was put in was only \$937,000. He said that does not match that figure. He said those are estimates of what they are going to pay. He said now the tonnage is the only thing he looked at. He said he is comparing apples to apples. He said the three years with Allied and two years with Mr. Nickolich plus another four months. He said that is where he sees their tonnage has steadily increased over that time. He said he thinks that would put anyone's antenna up and say what is going on here. He said that is why he thinks they should look into this. He said it is no reflection on anyone, there was no need for him to come here. He said but if he wants to come here that is fine.

- Mr. Linkosky said that was not the impression he got after reading the newspaper articles and hearing people talk. He said his client was accused of misconduct. He said he thinks they are all on the same page and his trucks are open. He said if they want to hire someone they can have at it. He said if they want to come out themselves they can do that. He said it is wide open.
- Mr. Cherepko said he appreciates his time and they are going to move on, thank you.

TABLED BILLS:

BILL #160: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE MANSFIELD BRIDGE.

Bill #160 remained on the Table.

RESOLUTION #2011-36 – BILL #123: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING SENATE ENGINEERING COMPANY AS THE CITY'S BRIDGE INSPECTION ENGINEERS.

MOTION: Ms. Diggs moved, seconded by Mr. Segina, "To remove Bill #123 from the Table."

RC-3	YEAS:	McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA	7
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To adopt Bill #156."

**RESOLUTION #2011-39 – BILL #157: A RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER
INTO A CONTRACT WITH DEBORAH A. WYSNI FOR
TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES IN THE CITY OF McKEESPORT
FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2011 AND ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2012.**

RC-7 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2011-40 – BILL #158: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT RENZIEHAUSEN PARK ON JULY 4, 2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00.

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Segina, "To adopt Bill #158."

RC-8 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHERPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7
NAYS: NONE 0

RESOLUTION #2011-41 – BILL #159: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT RENZIEHAUSEN PARK ON AUGUST 18, 2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00.

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To adopt Bill #159."

RC-9 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHERPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7
NAYS: NONE 0

RESOLUTION #2011-42 – BILL #160: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT RENZIEHAUSEN PARK ON AUGUST 28, 2011 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00.

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To adopt Bill #160."

RC-10 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHERPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2011-43 – BILL #161: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Ms. Walker, "To adopt Bill #161."

COMMENTS:

- Mr. Pittman said he doesn't know if he is out of order but Bethany gave him a list of improvements that would be included with this grant. He said if they get the grant the money would pass through the City to the Sub-grantee so the City would be held harmless for any additional costs or work. He said First Step Recovery has \$35,000 for operations and \$25,000 for ... and this is First Step not the Y, for boiler repairs and sidewalks. He said the YMCA does not have boiler repairs but they do have an application for \$75,000 to remodel the facilities to meet the Health Department standards for a medical treatment area and a dental clinic. He said that is an application that Intersection is going to submit on their own. He said they are not going to submit through the YMCA for electrical work and roof repairs.

RC-11 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Malinchak said he thinks Ms. Walker made a comment that she had some quotes from some investigative firms.
- Mr. Cherepko said she has the names and she gave them to him and they will carry through on that.
- Mr. Malinchak said are there any quotes there, he thought he heard someone said they were lower priced than CSI.
- Mr. Cherepko said he does not have any numbers.
- Mr. Malinchak said they don't have any dollar values at all. He said okay thank you. He said he recommends to Council the payment of bills in the amount of \$33,327.26.

RC-12 YEAS: McCALL, WALKER, TEDESCO, DIGGS,
CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DELLAPENNA 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

President of Council Michael Cherepko adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

Michael E. Cherepko
President of Council

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